

# DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

## PRESS AND INFORMATION

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

#### DAVID CURRY, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF ITS COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

David Maurice Curry was born in Burton-on-Trent, Great Britain, on June 13, 1944. He gained an Honours Degree in Modern History from Corpus Christi College, Oxford. In 1966, he won one of the first Kennedy Scholarships offered to British students to study in the U.S., and he pursued a course in international politics at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, under Professor Henry Kissinger.

He began his career in journalism in 1967 on the Newcastle Journal in the North of England, and in 1970 was invited to join the London Financial Times. On the Financial Times, he was, successively, Editor of world trade news, of international company news, Brussels Correspondent, Paris Correspondent, and European News Editor.

In 1974, he had fought the two (national) general elections as a Conservative candidate in the safe Labour seat of Morpeth (near Newcastle). In 1979, he was elected Conservative Member for North-East Essex in the first ever popular elections to the European Parliament. He was immediately appointed spokesman for the Conservatives on the Agriculture Committee and, in 1982, with the election of Sir Henry Plumb as Chairman of the Conservative Group in the Parliament, Mr. Curry became Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He was the youngest-ever Chairman of any Parliament committee, and the first non-farmer to hold the Agriculture chair.

He was re-elected in the 1984 European Parliament election and decided to change to budget questions, becoming Conservative Spokesman on budgets. In 1986, he is the general rapporteur of the European Community budget charged with negotiating the passage of the European Community budget through the Parliament and leading discussions with Council financial matters.

He is adviser on European agricultural affairs to the Chicago Board of Trade.

Mr. Curry writes and speaks extensively on agriculture. For the past three years he has written a weekly column in Farming News, one of the biggest United Kingdom farm journals, and contributes a fortnightly column to House Magazine - the "in-house" journal of the British Parliament. He appears frequently on television in Great Britain and in France, since he speaks fluent French. He also edits the magazine in the village where he lives near Saffron Walden, Essex. His specialized fields are the political and financial influence on agriculture, the international farm trade situation and, within agriculture, the arable side of the industry which is represented in eastern England.

His leisure activity is devoted to looking after his six acres, landscape gardening and tree and hedge planting and maintenance.

He is married to Anne Helene Rouillet, who is French and has an Oxford doctorate in Egyptology.

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